Concordia University

Faculty of Fine Arts Council

Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2000

Present: C. Jackson (Chair), G. Amantea, L. Blair, M. Bromley, M. Corwin, A. Fairchild, J. Fowler, K. Griffin, R. Hale, N. Helms, H. Johnson, W. Krol, L. Lerner, J. Locke, E. Mongerson, K. O'Brien, D. Pariser, K. Perry, M. Reinhart, L. Sharman, R. Tyrell

Absent with apologies: S. Anastasiu, M. Bush, J. Cezar, R. Ellias, K. Langshaw, B. Layne, C. Leslie, M. Montanaro, S. Paikowsky, L. Peterson, P. Regimbald, P. Rist, D. Vivian

Guests: E. Abitbol, K. Adams, S. Bailey, Y. Bilodeau, J.-P. Duchesne, M. Falsetto, H. Fischer, P. Langdon, C. Mullen, O. Rovinescu, M.-C. Therrien,

1. Agenda

C. Jackson asked that item 7. be removed from the Agenda. Two items were added: 1) the CUP recommendations from the sous-commission ARTS (FFAC-00-03-17-D3); and 2) a presentation by Faculty Council student representative on the Reading room projects (FFAC-00-03-17-D4).

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. Minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2000

MOTION: (Griffin, Mongerson)

"that the minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2000 be approved with the following amendments:

- p.2, under Chair's Remarks, 2nd paragraph, the last sentence was amended to include the Stern name as follows, "He was pleased to announce that a large sum of money ($10-12M) which was donated many years ago by the Stern Foundation...."
- p. 4, under item 10. 2nd para.: The word "interested" was removed and the sentence was corrected to read, "The Department is already accommodating approximately 120 students in the Electroacoustics area, ..."

CARRIED.

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Chair's Remarks

Budget:

The Provincial Government recently released the details of its budget which includes an amount of $600M to be re-invested in the universities. In addition to this an amount of $100M will be given to universities immediately to be applied to their accumulated debts. Concordia will have a pro-rata share of this amount. The details of the re-investment will be released shortly when the MEQ reveals its new policy for funding universities.

C. Jackson also reported that the Faculty's budget will be discussed at the next Senate meeting. He will report on these discussions at the April Council meeting. Within the next few months, the Faculty Strategic Planning and Budget Committee (SPBC) will be working on solutions for balancing the Faculty's budget and making its recommendations. The recommendations and goals presented by the SPBC are meant to provide a set of guidelines for the development of the Faculty of Fine Arts for the next 3-5 years.

Boston Globe article (FFAC-00-03-17-D1):

This article was circulated for information only. C. Jackson remarked that the article provides a good description of the challenges all art schools face as they incorporate digital technologies in their curricula.

5. Question Period

L. Lerner asked if the University or the Faculty is doing something to formally recognize the Stern Foundation for the generous donation it gave to the University. C. Jackson is unaware of any such plans, but there are three universities involved, that is, university of Jerusalem, McGill and Concordia. L. Lerner said she would look into the matter.

R. Hale announced that a workshop entitled, *Supervisory Relationship: A focus group* will be held on March 27, 2000 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The School of Graduate Studies has been working with the Centre for Teaching and Learning on this workshop with a view of providing mentorship to Graduate Students and Graduate Program Directors. There is a long-range plan for a series of workshops. R. Hale hopes to see the Faculty of Fine Arts represented at the workshop. R.S.V. P. with Heather Adams at the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

6. 10:00 a.m. Presentation by Herve Fischer
Putting the Daniel Langlois Chair of Digital Technologies and the Fine Arts into Perspective

C. Jackson welcomed today's guest speaker, Mr. Herve Fischer, to the Faculty Council meeting. He summarized that Mr. Fischer was hired as the Daniel Langlois Chair in Digital Technologies and the Fine Arts effective January 1, 2000. The Daniel Langlois Chair was created with the following general mandate: 1) to oversee the development of the Digital Image and Sound program 2) to facilitate the ongoing discussions around new technologies within the Faculty and 3) to secure external funding for new initiatives in the area of the digital technologies. Dean Jackson read Mr. Fischer's biographical sketch outlining his background and accomplishments.

The following is a summary of Mr. Fischer's comments:

Because of its excellent reputation the Faculty of Fine Arts was identified by the Fondation Daniel Langlois as a prime candidate for this chair. The expectations are high: to build on the recognized strengths of Fine Arts while proposing new initiatives which will capture the support of all those who may help us in their realization: the private sector, the government and granting agencies.

To this end, Mr. Fischer is proposing a "Media Lab for Québec", constructed along similar lines as the one at MIT in Boston, but with an emphasis on content rather than on technology. This theme is one which has a particular resonance at this time as there is a growing recognition from all quarters of the need for creators to work with the digital technologies. With the help of external funding, he proposes the creation of a series of labs:

- lab for Digital Imaging
- lab for digital technology
- lab for digital sound and music
- lab for virtual reality (with applications in cinema, design etc.)
- lab for the development of multimedia software
- lab for artificial life, robotics and remote movement control
- lab or workshop for digital reproduction technologies
- lab or workshop for computer special effects
- workshop for multimedia content
- lab or workshop for hybrid integration capture and computer production
- a centre for documentation on digital production and new media

In closing Mr. Fischer thanked everyone for the collegial manner in which information has been shared with him. He assured councillors and guests that he is open to all ideas and suggestions. He believes in the importance of these ambitious projects, but he also considers it a work in progress to be carried out in collaboration with his colleagues and students.

Question Period and Discussion:

J. Fowler mentioned that students were very interested in these issues and suggested an open forum would foster further dialogue with the student body. H. Fischer responded that he has every intention to exchange information with students about these issues, and that he looked forward to discussing them further in the classes he will be teaching next year.

D. Pariser raised a question regarding the relationship between the Business sector and the arts. The Business sector has not really shown much interest in research in the arts. Now that we are exploring the new technologies this is changing, but the involvment of business may produce other problems of control. How will that be dealt with? H. Fischer replied that this is a big issue and there is much work to be done. However, he will be seeking partnerships in the Business sector who respect our autonomy of thinking and our work. Business must be made aware of the importance of creativity. Usually, if a CEO believes in our ideas, then we will most likely be free to use the funds as we want. New approaches will be found to find partnerships.

K. Griffin asked Mr. Fischer if he intends to meet with Staff members in the Faculty. She stated that many Staff members are well versed in traditional media but wish to explore the digital technologies. Mr. Fischer stated that he has had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with a few Staff members. He looks forward to working with all Staff members to share ideas and become familiar with their needs.

N. Helms asked what Mr. Fischer's thoughts were about connecting with the performing arts. H.

Fischer replied that performing arts is definitely a big part of the project. Music already has a link with digital arts, and theatre and dance will be moving towards digital technologies as well. The equipment and funding for these initiatives will have to be secured.

A question arose regarding those implanted in the traditional arts and if media labs will address the concern about access to equipment? H. Fischer said that all areas will have to work together to arrive at solutions. It may be that all departments need local facilities.

L. Lerner asked if the two courses scheduled to be taught by H. Fischer will be for credit. There will be one Undergraduate 3-credit course, and the other will be a Graduate course in September 2000. G. Amantea added that Mr. Fischer will be giving 3 public lectures in the MFA and there will be a panel discussion planned for Graduate students.

L. Lerner asked about the possibility of a Quebec Media Lab and a Federal Lab. She asked if what Mr. Fischer described in his presentation was a unique project or if other comparable labs existed in Canada. H. Fischer replied that he would like us to be unique, but we are not alone to think of these types of projects. He has important contacts with the Federal and Provincial Governments who are indicating interest in our project. However, it would be excellent to be the innovators.

R. Hale questioned whether Mr. Fischer anticipates collaborations with other Faculties at Concordia University. H. Fischer replied that contacts have already been made with the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. He intends to broaden the discussion with other parts of the University.

C. Jackson thanked H. Fischer for his presentation.

7. Undergraduate Curriculum Report # 64 (FFAC-00-03-17-D2)

C. Jackson asked A. Fairchild to present the curriculum changes contained in Curriculum Report #64.

<u>The Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema</u>:

A. Fairchild explained that the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema proposes the addition of a course (FMST 391) to the Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality which had been previously offered as a topics course.

<u>Department of Art Education</u>:

In order to comply with MEQ teacher certification requirements, students in specialization programmes must complete the practicum component teaching pre-school children, not school-age children, as indicated in the present description. The proposed course description changes clarify the setting and the number of hours required in ARTE 230 and ARTE 434 for internship in the Specialization in Art Education, as requested by the MEQ.

MOTION: (Fairchild, Corwin)

> "that the proposed curriculum changes contained in Undergraduate Curriculum Report # 64 be approved."

CARRIED.

8. Commission des universites sur les programmes (CUP) - Projet de rapport Recommendations from the sous-commission ARTS (FFAC-00-03-17-D3)

The recommendations of the CUP's Sous-commission ARTS was circulated for information purposes. C. Jackson stated that the Faculty is being asked to respond to the section of the document pertaining to retention and graduation rates by June of 2000.

9. Presentation on the Reading Room (FFAC-00-03-17-D4)

Document (FFAC-00-03-17-D4) was circulated.

J. Fowler reported that thanks to the financial support received from the Dean of Students, there are new projects underway in the Reading Room. These include the addition of an array of new services and a change in its physical environment. J. Fowler emphasized to Faculty Council members the importance of supporting the Reading Room, and specifically requested suggestions for reference books to be purchased with the new money they have received.

M. Corwin asked if Performing Arts material is present in the Reading Room. J. Fowler responded that even though Visual Arts and Performing Arts students are not within close proximity, students are most likely interested in all fine arts disciplines. M. Corwin added that students in the Performing Arts may not be aware of the Reading Room's existence, therefore, he suggested that information about its activities be disseminated to the Loyola campus.

L. Lerner commented that the Department of Art History has given funds to the Reading Room, helping it stay open for the Fall term. L. Sharman also pointed out that the Department of Design Art has also contributed to the Reading Room. The students were asked to provide an account of how funds have been spent.

The Dean has invited the students to the next Deans and Chairs meeting to address the Reading Room budget with a view to providing it with a more stable financial footing.

K. Griffin pointed out that the Article about the Reading Room from The Concordian mentions that the CSU President Rob Green met with J. Fowler to discuss the possibility of making the Reading Room a student center. J. Fowler responded that in the past the Reading Room has received funding from the CSU (approximately $8,000. per year), but Fine Arts students do not want to see the CSU control its operations.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Submitted by: L. Hyette

Lynda Hyette
Interim Assistant to the Dean
April 17, 2000